Free Beach Ball!

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

CE Complies with the European toy safety standard EN71. Not suitable for children under the age of 3 years due to small parts. Please retain this information for future reference. Supplied by HMA Ltd., Aylesbury, HP19 8DZ.

Stories
Activities
Colouring

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Thomas Token Inside!

No. 359 £1.40
4th July – 17th July 2001
Fortnightly

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Really Useful Reading with...

THOMAS & FRIENDS™

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

3. **The Big Wheel**
   a story to read
8. **Look and See!**
   things to spot in a big picture
10. **Who Said That?**
    a rebus picture story
12. **Competition Time**
    great prizes to win
14. **Story Puzzle**
    tell the story in the right order
16. **Poster**
    a picture to pull out and keep
18. **Blowing Bubbles**
    a rhyming story
22. **A Day in the life of Harold**
    a typical day for Harold
24. **Special Statue**
    a bedtime story
28. **Dot to Dot**
    join the dots to see the picture
30. **Sodor Mail**
    your letters, photos and drawings

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GULLANE

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends
A BRITT ALLCROFT COMPANY PRODUCTION
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry
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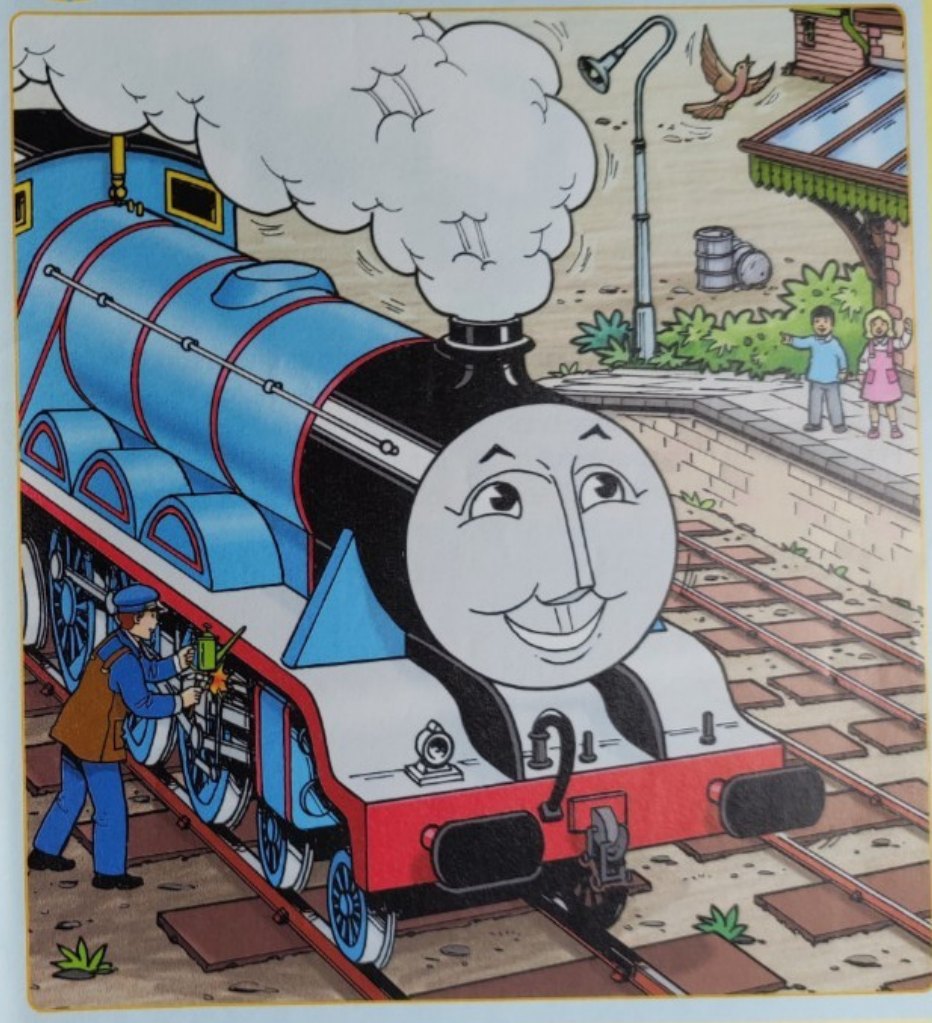
I fun to read together

The Big Wheel



1. One morning, Gordon stood in the yard while Percy went to get his coaches for him. A guard oiled Gordon's wheels and tapped them all with a hammer.

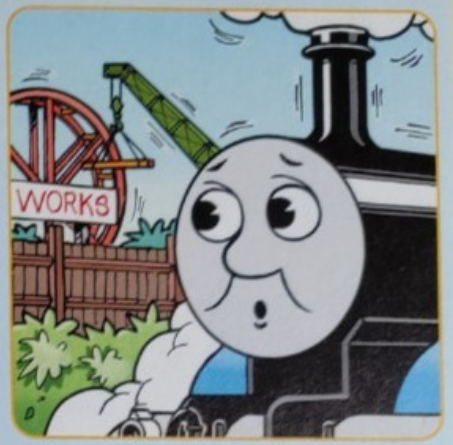
2. Nearby, Stephen and Bridget, The Fat Controller's two grandchildren, were watching. They waved to Gordon and the wheeltapper.

3. "Your wheels are really large!" Bridget called to Gordon. "I know," he snorted. "That's because I'm the fastest and most powerful steam engine around here!"

4. Gordon's wheels made a bright, clear ringing sound as the wheeltapper hit each one and listened. "Good! No nasty cracks in my wheels!" huffed Gordon.

5. "Where would I be without them!" he sniffed. "Stuck in the shed," teased Percy. "We all need wheels!" Stephen and Bridget went to their grandpa's office.

6. Gordon rolled up to the platform to get his passengers. The Fat Controller was on the phone. "We'll build the giant wheel at the Works," he said.

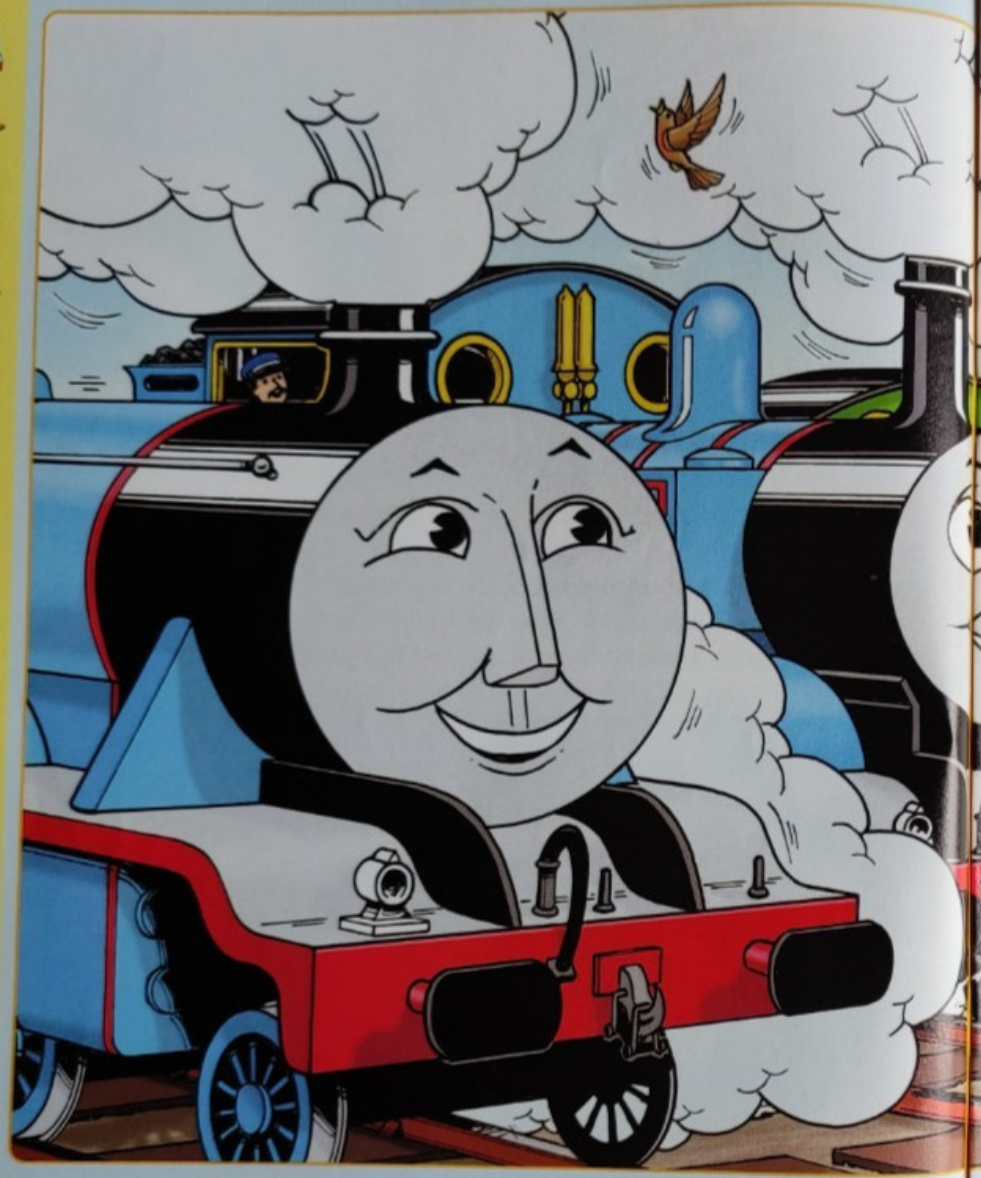


7. Stephen, Bridget and Gordon overheard. "It must be for a giant engine!" they said. Then The Fat Controller asked Thomas to get some metal from the foundry.

8. "It's for a mighty-sized engine," said Gordon, gloomily. "Nonsense!" hissed Thomas. But at the Works, he was shocked to see the giant wheel being built.

9. "You're right, Gordon," he said, that night in the shed. "The new engine will be so big, it will need a special track. It could carry all our freight and passengers!"

10. Thomas, Gordon and the other engines were worried they would be scrapped and could not work. Later, at home, The Fat Controller told the children.



11. "No wonder! They think the giant engine will put them out of work," replied Bridget. "The one your wheel is for." "It's not for an engine," smiled The Fat Controller.

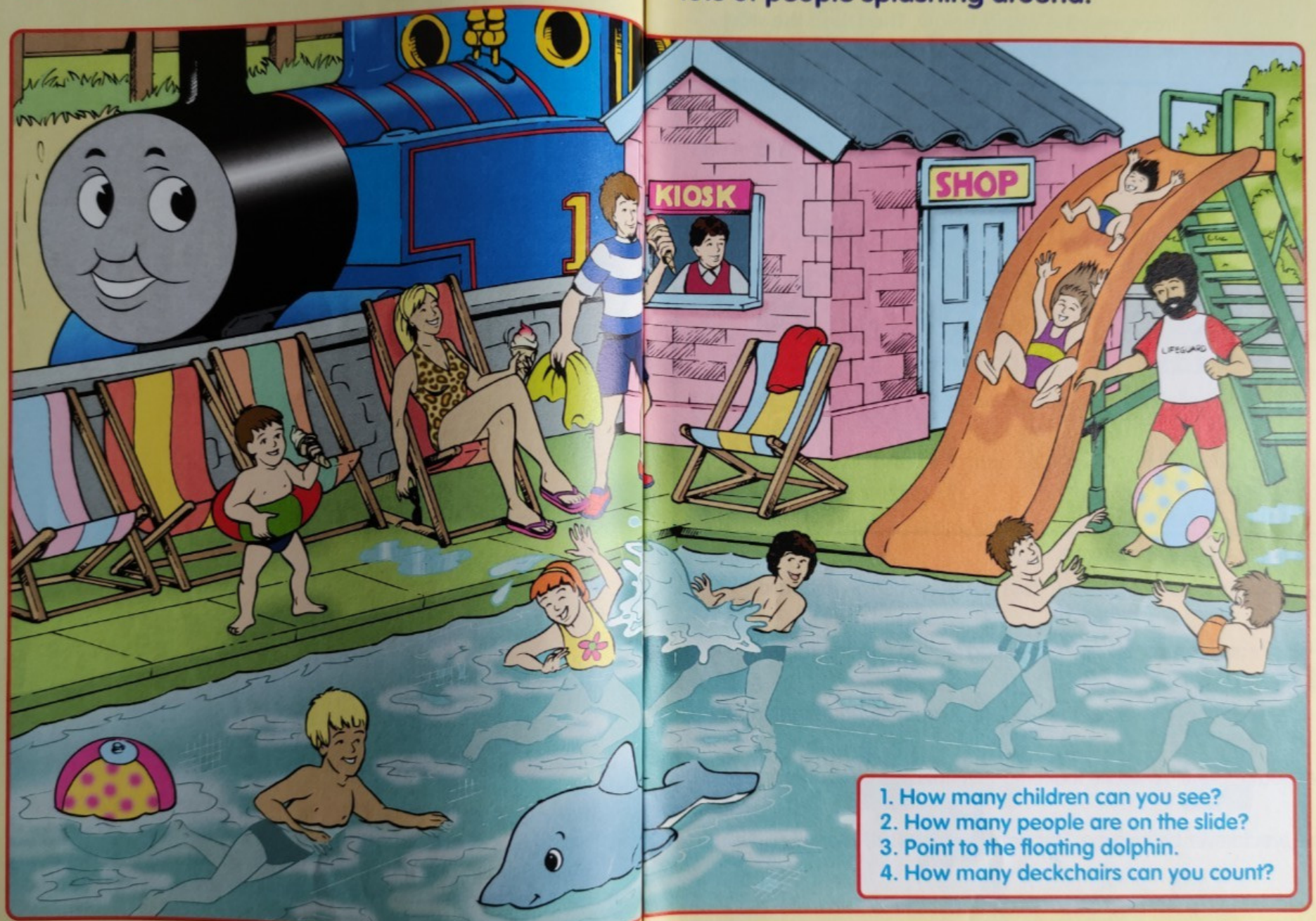
12. "But it will give people rides," he added. Later, Thomas and some of the other engines helped to carry the big wheel, in sections, to a theme park near the seaside.

13. The wheel was put together again and had special cradles fixed to it. Gordon, Percy and Thomas were the first to see it turning, carrying happy people.

14. They could see Stephen and Bridget. "We made a mistake," said Gordon, relieved. "That big wheel's Really Useful." "You mean Wheely Useful!" joked Thomas.

The End

Look and See!



Thomas is passing a swimming pool and can see lots of people splashing around.

1. How many children can you see?
2. How many people are on the slide?
3. Point to the floating dolphin.
4. How many deckchairs can you count?

Answers: 1. eight 2. two 3. in the middle 4. five

rebus story

Who Said That?

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

umbrellas

suitcases

platform

Thomas

Clarabel

people

shelf

guard

frog

eyes

pulled up at a , and everyone began to board .

saw a green toy , sitting next to a man on the seat. "Hello, !" said the . "I must be hearing things!" gasped . When he looked again, the had gone. "No one would ever believe me," thought . But, later, his found the had been left on . It was put on a in

lost property, with some and .

That evening, the man, who had been sitting next to the , called at the lost property office. "I've lost a very special toy ," he said. By now, it had fallen off the and dropped down between more and . At last, the toy was found. "I know why it's so special," told the man. "That toy talks!" The station staff overheard and laughed. But their mouths and opened wide in amazement as the opened its mouth, too, and began to speak. " is right! Of course I can talk!" said the . "Don't look so surprised," laughed its owner. "It's me talking really. I can do it hardly moving my lips. I'm called a ventriloquist, and this toy is my dummy!"

The End

Bedtime Thomas!

Heart Character Toys are giving away 10 of these great bedroom duvet and pillowcase sets. For your chance to win just tell us:

What number engine is Thomas the tank engine?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to: Thomas #359 competition, Heart Character Toys, 37A High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR.

Heart Character Toys stock over 250 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your free copy, call 01543 377182, quoting reference 359 or write to them at the competition address above.

Closing date 25th July 2001

This competition is open to all Thomas readers other than employees of participating companies and their families. We cannot accept responsibility for any entries that are lost in the post. Please obtain permission from a parent or guardian before entering this competition. Entries are limited to one winner per household.

Day out with Thomas

Don't miss the next Thomas day out nearest you!

July 7–8	Mangapps Farm (Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex) Tel: (01621) 784898
July 8	Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway Tel: (01797) 362353
July 14–15	Mangapps Farm (Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex) Tel: (01621) 784898
July 14–15	Eastbourne Miniature Railway (E Sussex) Tel: (01323) 520229

Please note: Some of the above railway telephone numbers may be a talking timetable or may require you to leave a message.

Day out with Thomas hotline Tel: (0870) 2412532

www.thomasthetankengine.com

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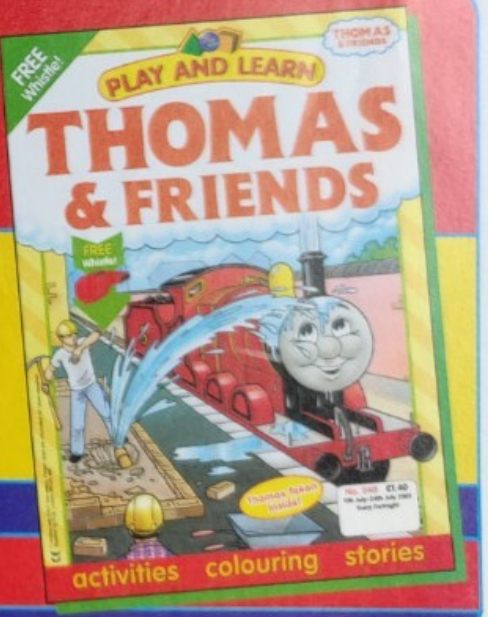
THOMAS & FRIENDS

Don't miss the new Play and Learn Thomas & Friends!

Packed full of activities, games and puzzles!



On sale every fortnight.

Story puzzle

This story is all mixed-up! Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in.

1

Gordon speeds on his way back to the main station.

2

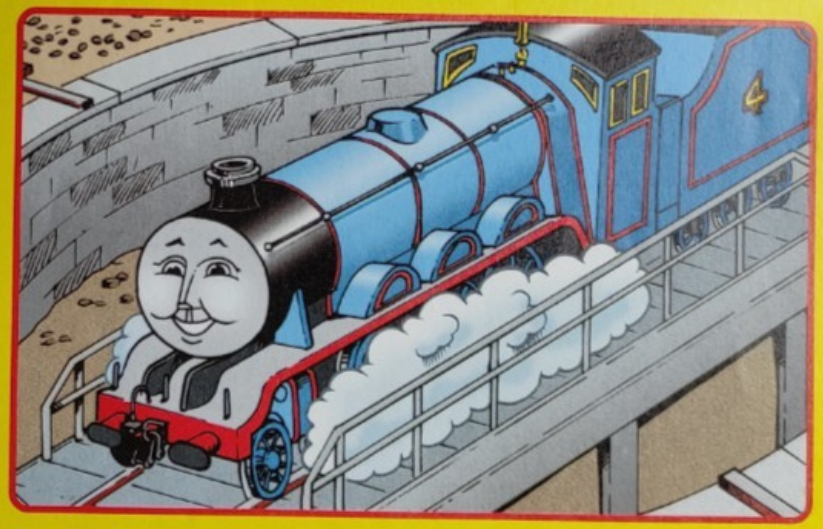
He needs to turn round so heads for the turntable.

3

Gordon drops his passengers at the coastal station.

The right order is ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

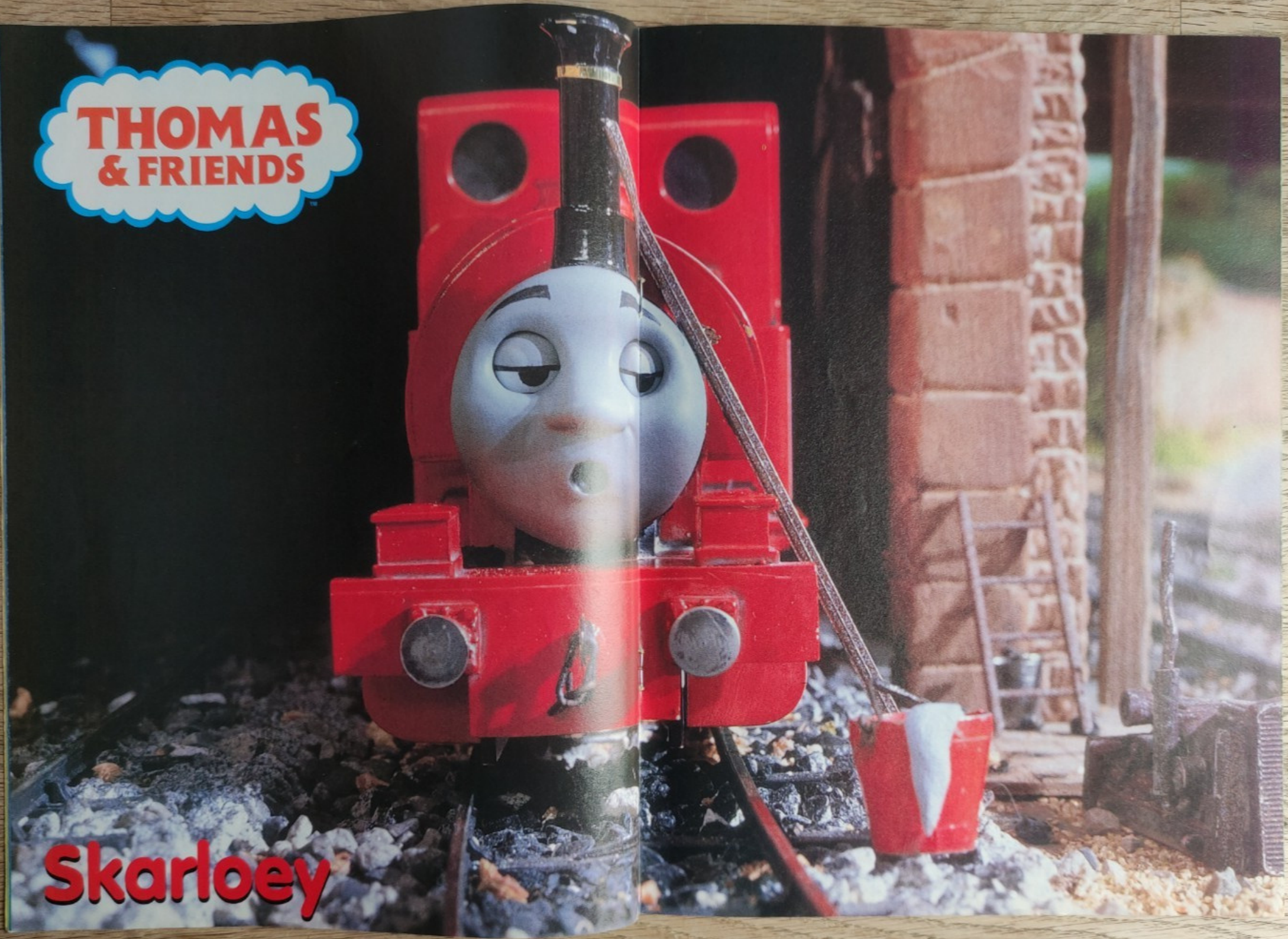
4



Gordon is turning round on the turntable.

Can you spot the ticket window in one of the pictures?

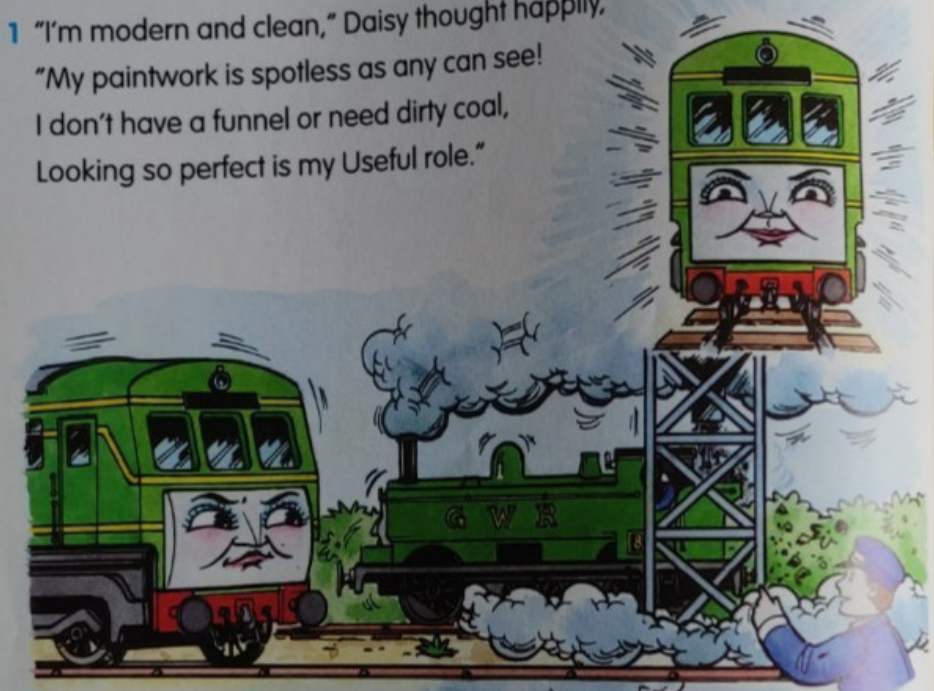
ANSWER: 3, 2, 4, 1

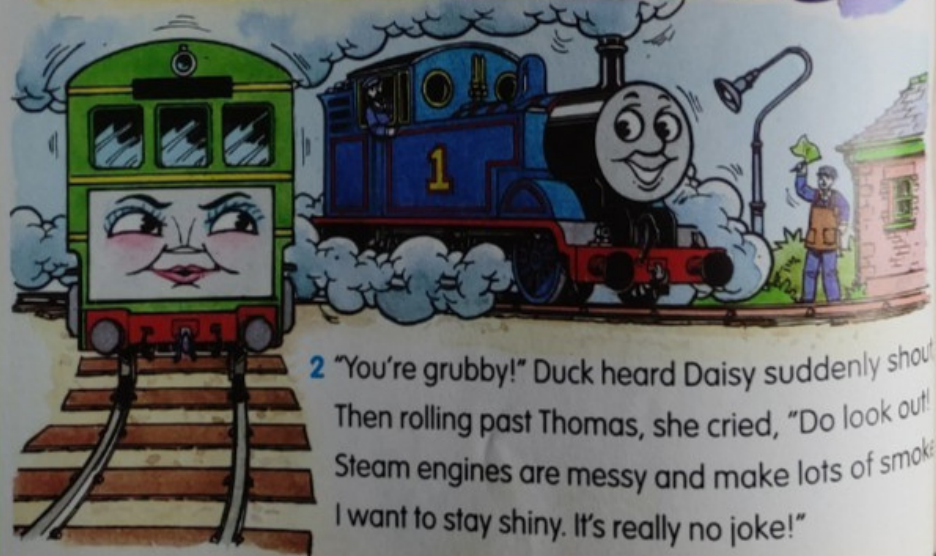

THOMAS
& FRIENDS
Skarloey

Thomas' rhyme time

Blowing Bubbles

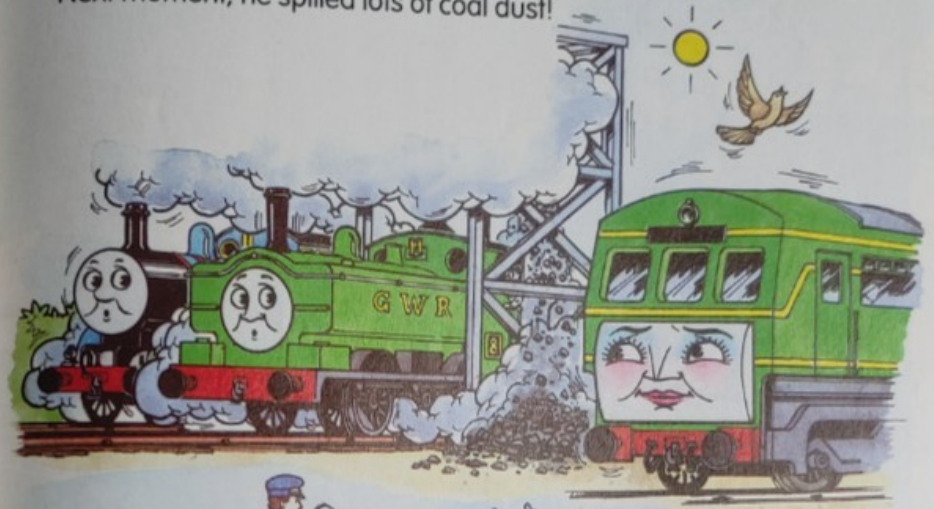
1 "I'm modern and clean," Daisy thought happily,
"My paintwork is spotless as any can see!
I don't have a funnel or need dirty coal,
Looking so perfect is my Useful role."

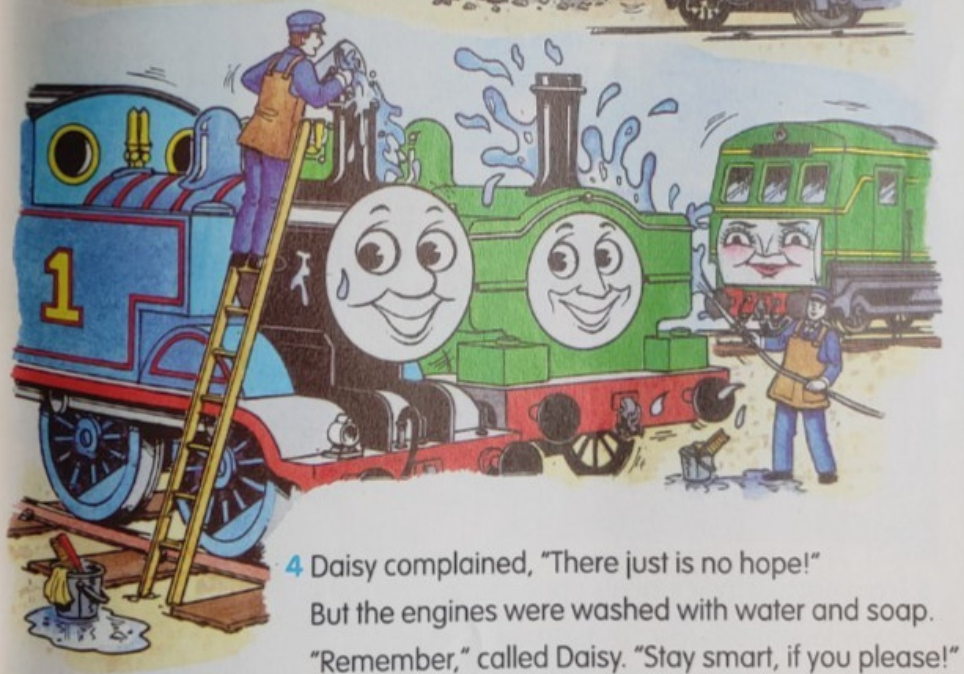




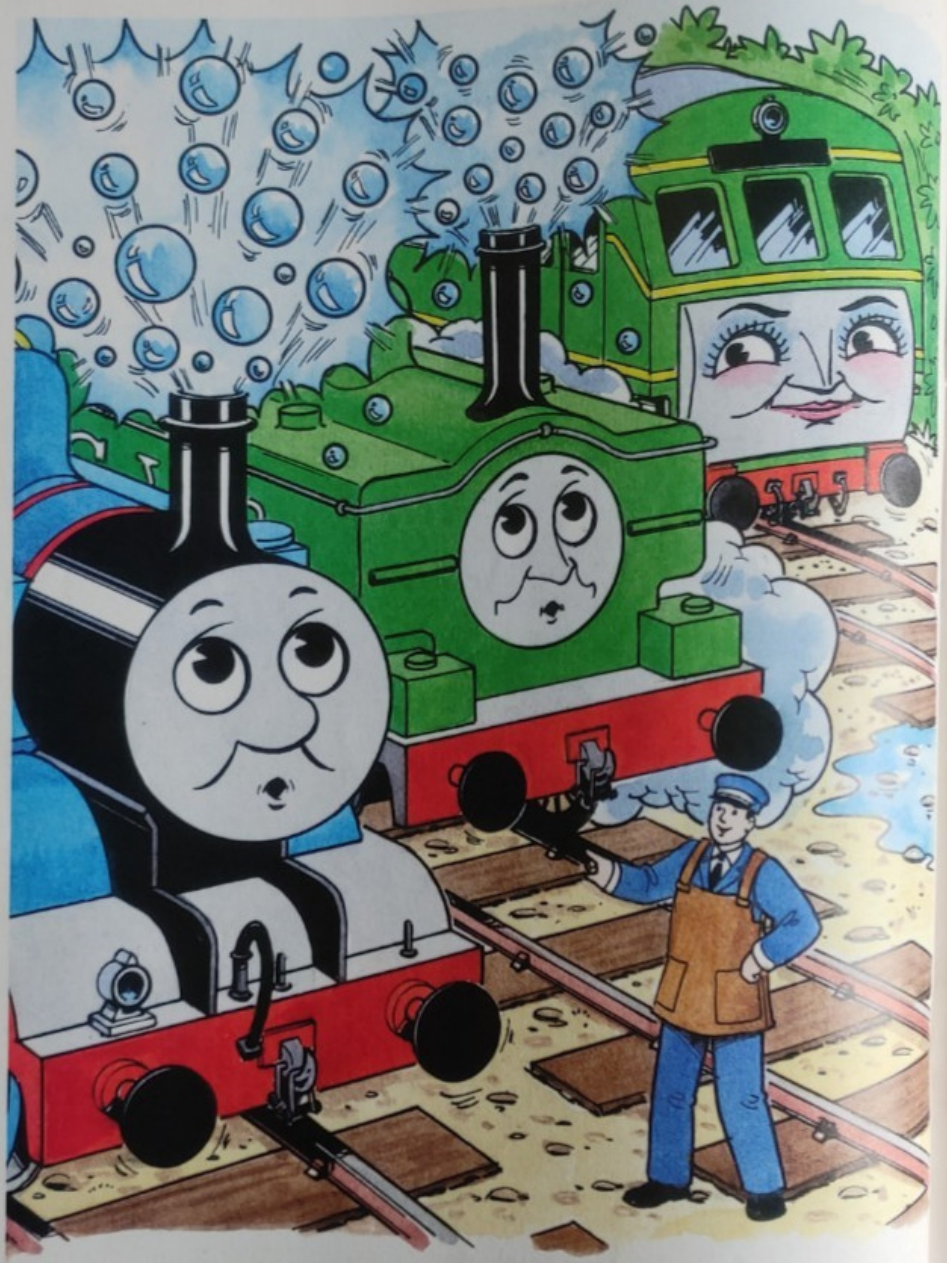
2 "You're grubby!" Duck heard Daisy suddenly shout
Then rolling past Thomas, she cried, "Do look out!
Steam engines are messy and make lots of smoke
I want to stay shiny. It's really no joke!"

3 "Stop fussing," hissed Duck. "It isn't a crime,
To work very hard and end up with grime.
For engines like me burning coal is a must!"
Next moment, he spilled lots of coal dust!





4 Daisy complained, "There just is no hope!"
But the engines were washed with water and soap.
"Remember," called Daisy. "Stay smart, if you please!"
Then Thomas and Duck both started to sneeze.



5 From each of their funnels appeared a soap bubble,
Daisy laughed loudly, "Those aren't any trouble!"
The engines blew more, grinning, "What does this mean?"
"Simple!" smiled Daisy. "We're all very **clean!**"

the end

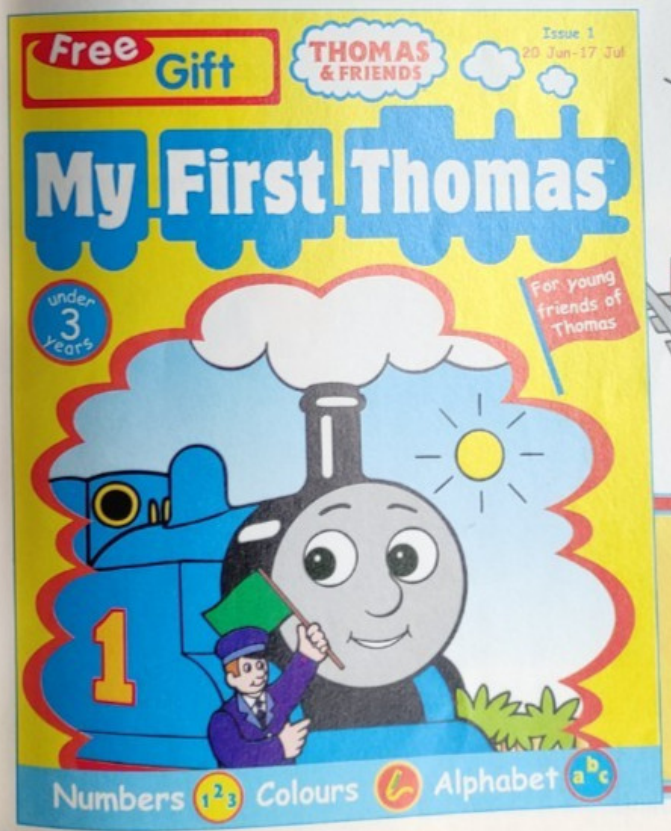
In all good newsagents and supermarkets from **20th June**

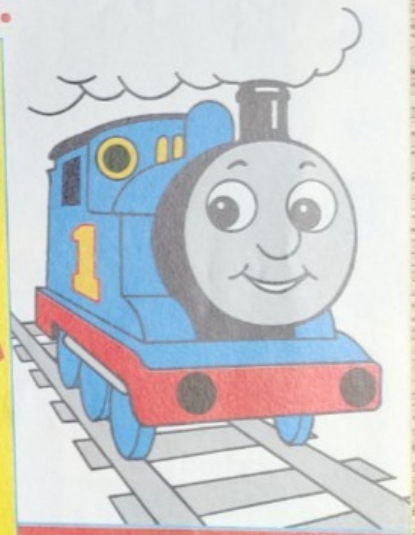
THOMAS & FRIENDS

£1.50

My First Thomas™

**Peep! Peep! Young friends of Thomas,
Are in for a splendid ride.
There's a new Thomas magazine,
Packed full of fun inside.**



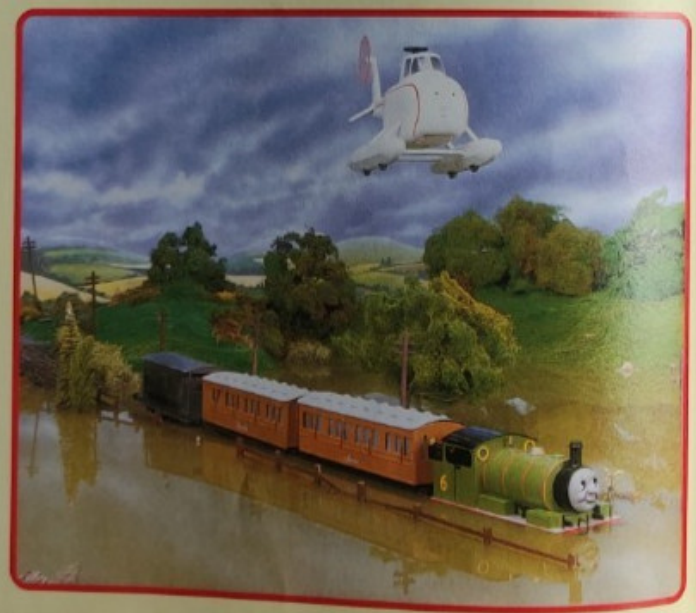


colouring pages
rhyming stories
number rhymes
counting fun

A day in the life of Harold

"The river has burst its banks," says Harold. "We must tell the other engines to avoid it at all costs!" Harold's pilot smiles, "You're a Really Useful Helicopter!"

Percy chuffs along so fast, he fails to notice the flood has reached part of his railway line. "We'll get you out of there in no time!" says Harold to a much relieved Percy.



"I don't see why I should change my route because of some silly old bridge," grumbles Gordon. "It's this way, if you want to stay dry!" chirps Harold.

Harold ends his day early to miss the brewing storm. "Don't worry, Harold," says his pilot, "there'll be more adventures tomorrow!"

Win a model of Harold!

10 lucky readers can win a splendid model of Harold from the Racing Champions engine range. Just tell us:

What colour is Harold's stripe and name?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to:

Thomas/359 model competition,
Egmont Fleetway Ltd.,
PO BOX 29087,
London WC1H 9XE.

Closing date:
25th July 2001

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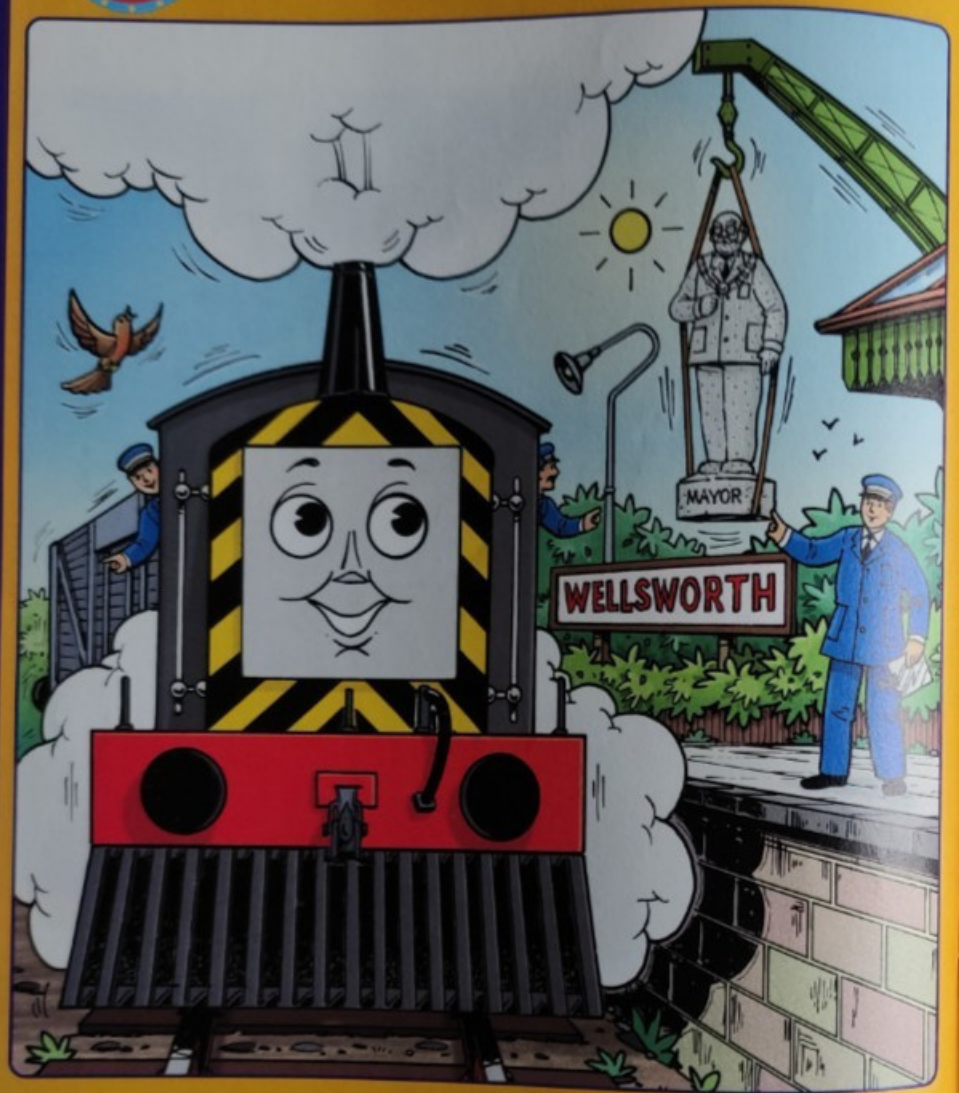
percy's bedtime story

Special Statue



1. Usually, Mavis worked at the quarry. But today she was given a job to do on Thomas' branch line. Mavis had to collect a big stone statue of Wellsworth's mayor.

2. She carried it carefully to the station in a truck. The statue was very heavy. But Mavis was used to carrying stone. When she arrived, a huge crane unloaded the statue.

3. Then it was lifted into the middle of the town square. Next moment, Thomas pulled up with Annie and Clarabel, who had brought lots of people to watch.

4. Soon the mayor gave a speech. He thanked everyone for the fine statue. The crowd clapped loudly. "But what's so special about a statue?" asked Mavis, puzzled.

5. "Statues are to remember important people or special things they've done," explained Thomas. "The mayor has worked hard for the town of Wellsworth."

6. Next morning, Mavis set off for the quarry, pulling a long line of trucks. "No statues today," she smiled. "Just lots of big lumps of shapeless stone for me to carry!"

7. The quarry was noisy and dusty as men worked. Mavis stopped while she waited for her trucks to be loaded. Suddenly, Mavis heard a CRACCCK!

8. A huge bit of rock was starting to break free. "Oh, no! Look out!" Mavis shouted to the quarrymen. She whistled to them but the men thought she was just saying hello.

9. "If that rock falls, it could cause an accident," thought Mavis. She raced forward, crashing through the buffers. Mavis braked with a jolt beside the loose rock.

10. She jammed it between herself and the quarry wall, to stop the rock breaking away. Mavis strained to hold the rock until a crane could lift it away.

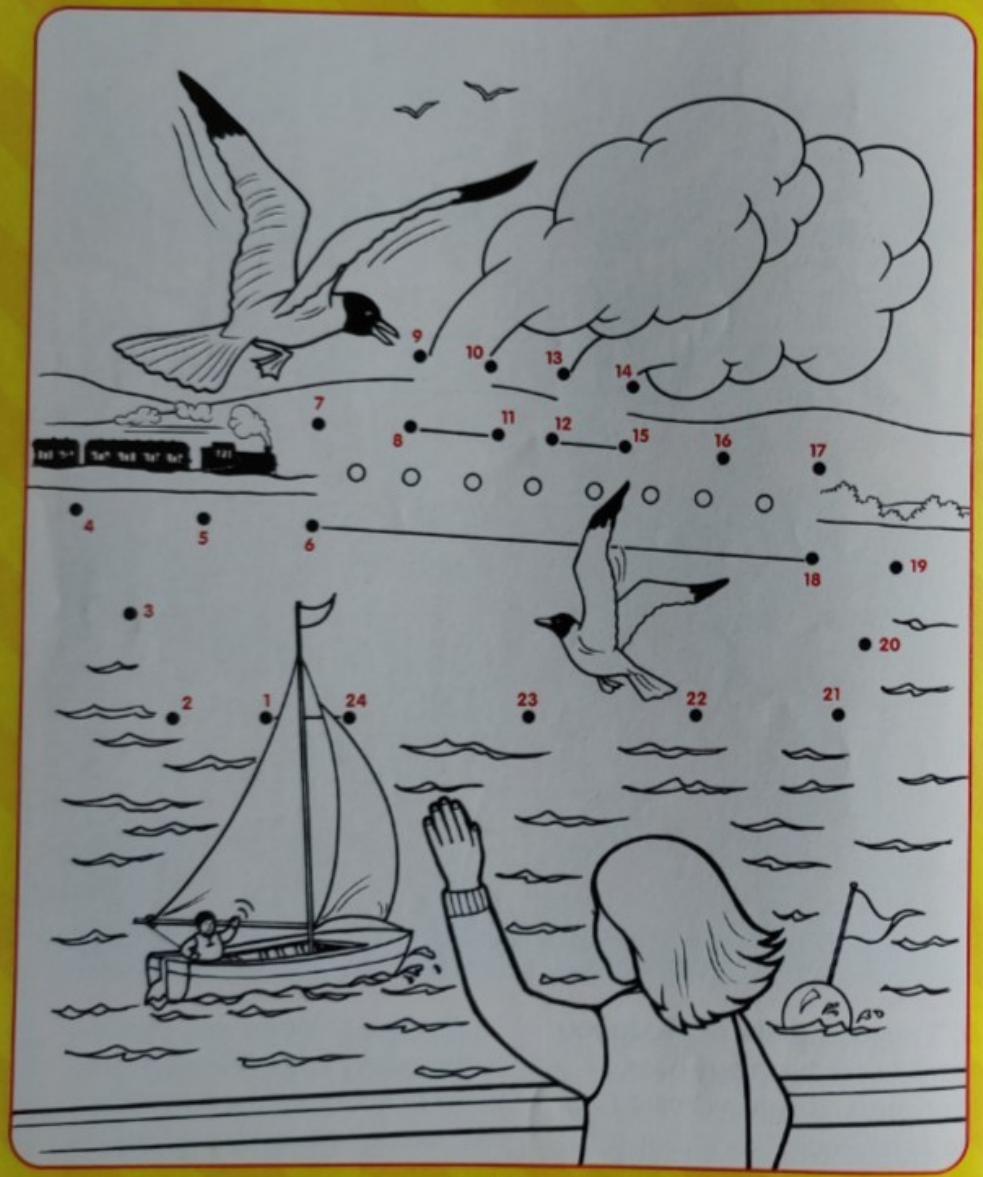
11. "Everyone's safe, thanks to you, Mavis," said the quarry boss, afterwards. The men cheered. Mavis felt Really Useful. But, a month later, she had a surprise.

12. A statue of Mavis was unveiled by the quarry boss. "We will never forget her bravery," he said. "My own statue," smiled Mavis proudly. "I suppose I'm important now too."

The End

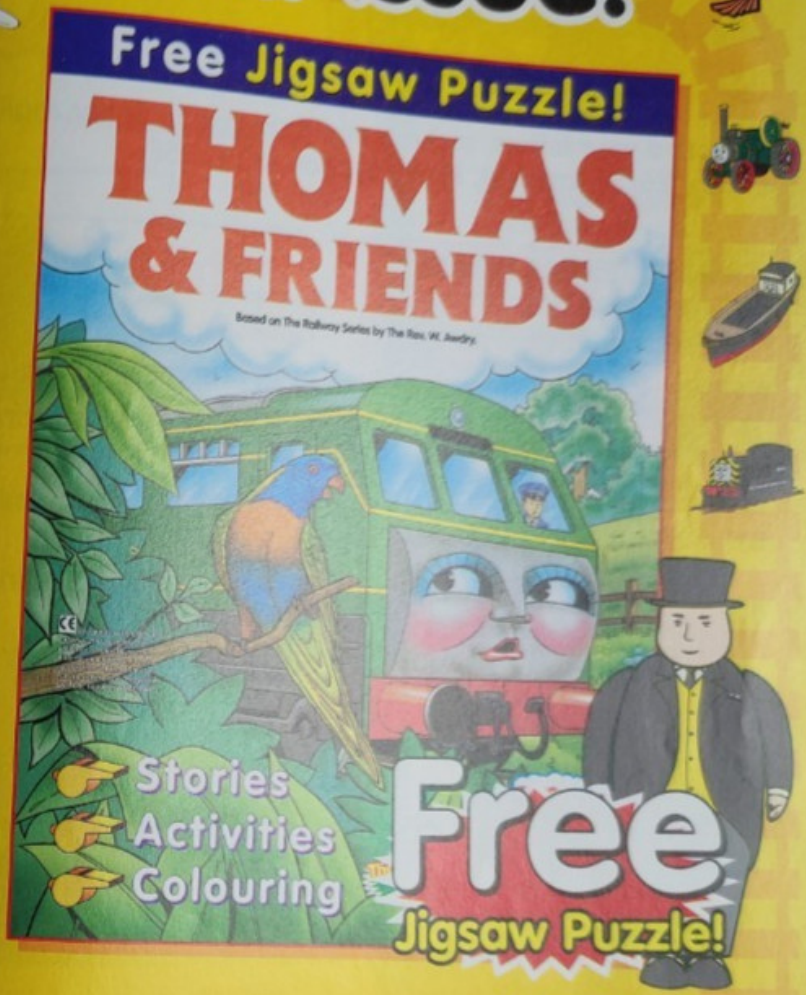
Dot to Dot!

Join the dots to complete this picture.



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

Next issue!



Stories to Read • Rhymes and Songs
Puzzles and Activities • Prizes to win
Plus a Thomas token to collect!

Issue 360 on sale from 18th July 2001!

Sodor mail

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Sodor Mail, Egmont Fleetway, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF

Thomas Token

Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!

Star Poem

Ryan Smith, aged 5, wrote this poem!

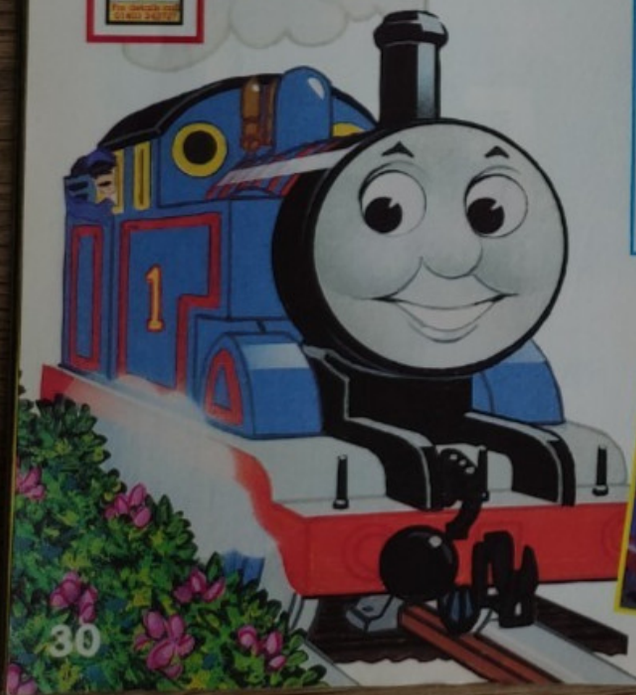
I like Thomas, he is blue,

Sir Handel, Edward and Gordon are too,

James is red and Henry is green,

They're the best engines I've ever seen!

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a £10 voucher to spend on any items from the Official Thomas Catalogue, packed with Thomas goodies! To obtain a free copy, call 01403 242727 quoting reference FL.



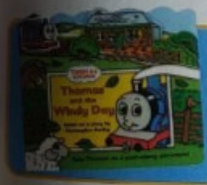
Charlie Todd, aged 2.

Jordan Lea-Hair, aged 3.

A splendid picture, by Shihab Mehboob, aged 5.

Chuff chuff, Thomas, by Jack Brightwell, aged 3.

'Poop! Poop! It's Gordon, by Joel Matthews, aged 6.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a Thomas and the Windy Day book from Egmont Children's Books.

Happy birthday!

To

Robert Ayres, aged 5.
Joseph Damms, aged 4.
Anthony Hague, aged 6.
Christopher Taylor, aged 4.
James Stokke, aged 4.
Jacob Viles, aged 6.
Thomas Nicholls, aged 4.
Sam Bucknall, aged 4.
James Ould, aged 4.
Joshua Woolnough, aged 3.
Lucy Grisdale, aged 6.
Jack Morgan, aged 3.
James Zebedee, aged 5.
Marc Deacon, aged 3.
Rosabelle Armstead, aged 3.
Nicholas Leak, aged 4.
James Taylor, aged 3.
Kenny Paget, aged 3.
Daniel Braybrook, aged 5.

Remember to send in your details 4 months before your birthday to be sure it will be printed on time.

We regret, we cannot guarantee your mention.

Luke Greenwood, aged 3.

Samuel Harris, Aged 6.

Cameron Straine-Francis, aged 3.

Javier Radmall, aged 5.

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